

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 450101-02782	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U S. APPLICATION NO (If known see 37 C F R 1.5) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">09/857648</div>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/07034		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 10 OCTOBER 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 7 OCTOBER 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD, MEDIUM					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Masao MIZUTANI, Yukihiko AOKI					
<p>Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> PCT/RO/101, PCT/ISA/210 PCT/IB/301, 304, 308, 346 25 Sheets of Drawings, 1 Page Abstract </div> 					


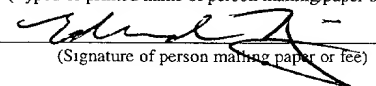
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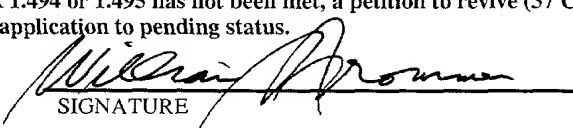
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APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.56) 09/857648		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/07034		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 450101-02782																															
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY																															
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000 00 International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860 00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690 00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00																																			
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).																																			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><thead><tr><th style="width: 15%;">CLAIMS</th><th style="width: 15%;">NUMBER FILED</th><th style="width: 15%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th><th style="width: 15%;">RATE</th><th style="width: 15%;">\$</th><th style="width: 20%;"></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Total Claims</td><td>30 - 20 =</td><td>10</td><td>x \$18.00</td><td>\$ 180.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Independent Claims</td><td>4 - 3 =</td><td>1</td><td>x \$80.00</td><td>\$ 80.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)</td><td>+ \$270.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</td><td>\$</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>						CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$		Total Claims	30 - 20 =	10	x \$18.00	\$ 180.00		Independent Claims	4 - 3 =	1	x \$80.00	\$ 80.00		MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$270.00		TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$	
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Fee for recording the enclosed assignments (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$ 40.00																															
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 1,160.00																															
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<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two checks in the amount of \$ 1,160.00 to cover the above fees are enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <p>WILLIAM S. FROMMER, ESQ. FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP 745 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10151</p> <p>Dated: <u>June 5, 2001</u></p>																																			
 SIGNATURE				WILLIAM S. FROMMER NAME																															
				25,506 REGISTRATION NUMBER																															

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mizutani, et al.
Filed.: Filed Concurrently Herewith
Title of Invention: CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD, MEDIUM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-49 and add the following new claims 50-79:

50. An information processing device for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network comprising:

operation state value obtaining means for obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment;

type information obtaining means for obtaining type information of said electronic equipment; and

control enablement/disablement judging means for judging enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment, wherein when control enablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means, said electronic equipment is controlled.

51. The information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of ON/OFF information of a power supply of said electronic equipment obtained by said operation state value obtaining means.

52. The information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said type information obtaining means.

53. The information processing device according to claim 50 comprising alarming signal producing display means for producing a warning signal when control disablement is judged by said control enablement/disablement judging means to display said warning signal.

54. The information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said network comprises an IEEE1394 bus.

55. The information processing device according to claim 50 wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of presence or absence of decision of an operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained by said operation state value obtaining means.

56. The information processing device according to claim 50 comprising decision means for deciding the presence or absence of possessory rights relative to said electronic equipment,

wherein said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the presence or absence of possessory rights of said electronic equipment decided by said means for judging the presence or absence of possessory rights.

57. The information processing device according to claim 50 comprising means for storing change frequency within a fixed time of the operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining operation state value,

wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is recording and or reproducing equipment, said control enablement/disablement judging means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of the change frequency stored by said means for storing change frequency.

58. The information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said electronic equipment includes at least a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape recorder, a compact disc device, and a minidisc device.

59. The information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a control state value of the disc device, a control state value of the tape device, or a control state value of a semiconductor device.

60. The information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a counter value of a recording passage time, or a reproducing passage time counter value.

61. The information processing device according to claim 57 wherein said operation state value is a tape counter value, a frame value, a field value, a track value, a chapter number, a recording passage time, or a reproducing passage time.

62. The information processing device according to claim 50 wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information

is office selection equipment, said control enablement/disablement means judges enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment on the basis of an office number obtained by said means for obtaining operation state value.

63. The information processing device according to claim 62 wherein the type information of said electronic equipment obtained by said means for obtaining type information is a TV set, a tuner, a radio set, or a set top box.

64. An information processing method for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network comprising:

obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment;

obtaining type information of said electronic equipment; and

judging enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment, wherein when control enablement is judged as a result of said control enablement/disablement judgment, said electronic equipment is controlled.

65. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein in said control enablement/disablement judgment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of ON/OFF information of a power supply of said electronic equipment obtained.

66. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein in said control enablement/disablement judgment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of type information of said electronic equipment obtained.

67. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein when control disablement is judged as a result of said control enablement/disablement judgment, a warning signal is produced, said warning signal being displayed.

68. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein said network comprises an IEEE1394 bus.

69. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein in said control enablement/disablement judgment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of presence or absence of decision of an operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained.

70. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights relative to said electronic equipment is judged, and in said enablement/disablement judgment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of the presence or absence of possessory rights of said electronic equipment.

71. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein change frequency within a fixed time of the operation state value of said electronic equipment obtained is stored, and when the type information of said electronic equipment obtained is recording and or reproducing equipment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of the change frequency stored in said control enablement/disablement judgment.

72. The information processing method according to claim 71 wherein said electronic equipment includes at least a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape recorder, a compact disc device, and a minidisc device.

73. The information processing method according to claim 71 wherein said operation state value is a control state value of the disc device, a control state value of the tape device, or a control state value of a semiconductor device.

74. The information processing method according to claim 71 wherein said operation state value is a counter value of a recording passage time, or a reproducing passage time counter value.

75. The information processing method according to claim 71 wherein said operation state value is a tape counter value, a frame value, a field value, a track value, a chapter number, a recording passage time, or a reproducing passage time.

76. The information processing method according to claim 64 wherein when the type information of said electronic equipment is office selection equipment, enablement/disablement of control of said electronic equipment is judged on the basis of an office number obtained in said control enablement/disablement judgment.

77. The information processing method according to claim 76 wherein the type information of said electronic equipment obtained is a TV set, a tuner, a radio set, or a set top box.

78. A program for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network including:

- a step for obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment;

- a step for obtaining type information of said electronic equipment;

- a step for judging enablement/disablement of said electronic equipment; and

- a step for carrying out controlling of said electronic equipment when control enablement is judged as a result of said control enablement/disablement judgement.

79. A recording medium having a program for carrying out give and receive of information to and from electronic equipment through a network recorded therein;

said program including:

- a step for obtaining an operation state value of said electronic equipment;

- a step for obtaining type information of said electronic equipment;

- a step for judging enablement/disablement of said electronic equipment; and

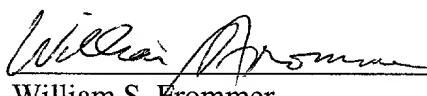
- a step for carrying out controlling of said electronic equipment when control enablement is judged as a result of said control enablement/disablement judgement.

REMARKS

Claims 1- 49 have been cancelled, and claims 50-79 have been added to reflect the amendments to the claims made under PCT Article 19. The filing fee has been calculated based upon these new claims.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
Tel. (212) 588-0800

DESCRIPTION

CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD, MEDIUM

Technical Field

The present invention relates to control apparatus and method, medium, and to control apparatus and method, medium, for example, for carrying out the resource management when equipment connected to an IEEE1394 bus is controlled.

Background Art

Recently, the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 high speed serial bus has been popularized. A plurality of nodes (for example, such as a digital AV (audio visual) equipment can be connected to the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) 1394 high speed serial bus (hereinafter merely referred to as IEEE1394 bus), and information can be delivered and received between the nodes. Out of nodes connected to the IEEE1394, the node for controlling other nodes is called a controller, and the node controlled by the controller is called a target.

In the transmission standard of IEEE1394, a signal format and an AV/C command for controlling equipment are provided. However, in the transmission standard of IEEE1394 alone, for example, where two pieces of digital AV equipment are connected one to one, no problem occurs, but where three pieces or more are connected one another, there gives rise to a problem. For example, where there is

simultaneous control of three nodes or more, and there is a plurality of nodes (controllers) for controlling other equipment (target), there gives rise to a problem that it is difficult or realize to offer mediation between the control nodes (controllers) and to attain development of application softwares in which compatibility is present between nodes.

On the other hand, recently, for the purpose of making the most of characteristics of IEEE1394 capable of actually providing data transmission speed at a high speed and at relatively low cost and capable of solving the problem, the technique called HAVi (Home Audio/Video interoperability) has ben developed.

The HAVi will be described briefly hereinafter.

With the recent conspicuous growth of digital AV equipment market, it is expected that the time will come in future when users can connect the equipment to construct a network in individual home. Accordingly, in order that the equipment on the home network cooperate and operate, each equipment need be provided with a middle ware for control and management of the network. Further, even where equipment of different makers are connected, in order that the network normally operates and the equipment can be used mutually, a common specification to which the middle ware should conform is indispensable thereto.

The HAVi is contemplated as a specification for AV equipment corresponding to the home network making use of IEEE1394. The software in conformity to the HAVi functions as a middle ware arranged between an application and OS (Vendor

Specific Platform) in collecting functions used in common for an application as shown in FIG. 21, and in digital AV equipment in conformity to the HAVi on which the former is mounted, mutual use between equipment and mutual utilization of function become enabled. The HAVi has characteristics having a plug and play, mutual operability of equipment, and expandability of a network. Accordingly, when equipment in conformity to HAVi is connected to a network, the software in conformity to HAVi immediately detects the connection of equipment automatically due to the plug and play function, whereby the procedure as the network is taken to realize the expandability with respect to the function of equipment connected.

That is, in the HAVi, a user merely connects various equipment, due to the plug and play function, by a digital interface such as IEEE1394 to enable construction of a home network. Accordingly, even where for example, new equipment is connected to or removed from the network, the equipment can communicate each other to recognize that the network be updated, so that the network can correspond to an arrangement of new equipment without stopping the function.

Further, in the equipment based on the HAVi specification, not only mutual connection and mutual operation between equipment but also co-owning of function between equipment on the network become enabled due to the mutual operability of equipment. For example, by operating certain equipment, it is possible to make use of function of other equipment not possessed by the former.

Furthermore, in the HAVi, the expansion of function is possible such that a new

function used in a future new home network application is used on the home network already used by a user, due to the expandability of the network. That is, the specification of HAVi defines the function that usable application programs and user interface softwares in other equipment are incorporated into the own through the network to use them, enhancing the way of pleasure and the convenience of new AV equipment as home network equipment, and having the expandability corresponding to the function to be effective in future. Accordingly, where new equipment or function is developed, that equipment is merely connected to the network already constructed to enable operation thereof.

As described above, the HAVi is possible to detect or control equipment in conformity to HAVi despite the difference in equipment makers, and further, the HAVi application is possible to control individual devices in different equipment. For example, as equipment such as a digital VTR and an audiophile, there can be listed a tuner, a display, an Amp, a stream converter, a clock function, an internet access function, and a modem. According to HAVi, for example, these devices can be operated directly from an application such as a set top box (STB).

The HAVi specification is determined in order to correspond to various requests of the home network in the digital AV environment based on the IEEE1394, and the basic specification thereof defines the exchange of messages and events on the IEEE1394, the ability detection of devices over the whole network and registration, and softwares for management of a digital AV stream and control of devices. As a byte

code of the HAVi, Java (Trademark) is employed in order to realize the devices on the network and functions thereof, without depending on a platform, and a bidirectional application and a user interface can be provided. The application in conformity to HAVi based on the Java is loaded on the device to enable download through the modem and the internet. Further, in the HAVi, a resource manager is loaded to process a conflict of the using right of devices, manage a scheduled event such as reserved telerecordings of digital VTR, and monitor a network whether or not a device is removed after registration.

Main software elements defined in the HAVi basic specification include, as shown in FIG. 21, CMM (IEEE1394 Communication Media Manager), EM (Event Manager), Registry, MS (Messaging System), DCM (Device Control Module), DCM manager, DDI controller (Data Driven Interaction Controller), SMGR (Stream Manager), and Resource Manager.

The CMM functions as an interface between the IEEE1394 and each software element.

The EM informs other software elements about the status change of the network (for example, equipment is newly connected to or disconnected from the network).

The MS functions as an API (Application Programming Interface) in which software elements of equipment on the network communicate each other. It is noted that API is an interface positioned between an application and OS or a middle ware.

The DCM control equipment. An application program controls equipment through the DCM. For this reason, the application program itself need not consider the difference between the individual equipment.

The DCM manager updates DCM. When new equipment is additionally connected to the network, DCM necessary for the equipment is newly added to automatically correspond to updating of the network.

The registry controls and store information about the software module.

The DDI controller takes charge of GUI (Graphical User Interface) of a display bock of equipment. This corresponds to a variety of displays from a display of a text alone to a display of graphics.

The SMGR monitors and manages a flow of stream data of IEEE1394 such as a picture and a voice or sound on the network.

The resource manager manages the resource of the network.

The HAVi classifies the device on the network into four categories, i.e. FAV (Full AV Device), IAV (Intermediate AV Device), BAV (Base AV Device), and LAV (Legacy AV Device).

That is, as shown in FIG. 22, the FAV is a device provided with all software elements (all elements marked by check marks in the figure) of HAVi; the IAV is a device provided with software elements (elements marked by check marks in the figure) other than the executing environment of the byte code of Java; the BAV is a device for supporting only HAViSDD (HAVi Self Describing Device) data and DCM;

and LAV is a device other than IEEE1394 not corresponding to HAVi or IEEE1394. It is noted that in the figure, softwares in which a check mark is surrounded by [] are option, indicating that the software element may not be provided as the case may be.

FIG. 23 shows one constitutional example of a case where these four categories of devices are connected to a IEEE1394 bus. In the FIG. 23 example, FAV and IAV enable control by DCM with respect to BAV and LAV.

Incidentally, there is contemplated a case where a target corresponding to LAV mentioned in HAVi capable of delivering and receiving an AV/C command of IEEE1394, a controller corresponding to LAV mentioned in HAVi capable of delivering and receiving an AV/C command of IEEE1394, and a controller corresponding to FAV and LAV mentioned in HAVi are present in the same network.

For example, where the controller corresponding to the LAV and the controller in conformity to the HAVi simultaneously control a single LAV on the network as a target, the LAV as the target is to be controlled by a plurality of controllers to possibly give rise to inconvenience.

For example, as shown in FIG. 24, where STB (Set Top Box) 202 which is LAV mentioned in HAVi, STB 201 which is FAV mentioned in HAVi, and digital VTR (for example, such as digital VHS) 203 which is LAV mentioned in HAVi are such that in the network connected by the IEEE1394 bus, both the STB 201 and STB 202 operate as a controller, and the digital VTR 203 is a target, when these two STB 201 and 202 attempt to carry out operation of the digital VTR 203 simultaneously, confliction

occurs. That is, since STB 202 operated as a controller is LAV, it is not put under an obligation to have a resource manager, and since LAV is not a model in conformity to HAVi, it is not put under an obligation to carry out communication between controllers, thus giving rise to confliction. For example, where in the midst of telerecording by the digital VTR 203 by the control from one STB 201, a stop command is supplied from the other STB 202, the digital VTR 203 becomes stopped despite the telerecording is in the midst.

Accordingly, where a plurality of controllers capable of controlling a single target are present on the network, and a controller which is LAV not in conformity to HAVi is present in the controllers, there occurs inconvenience that the single target is controlled by the plurality of controllers unless some resource managements are carried out.

Also in the case of network as shown, for example, in FIGS. 25 to 27, in addition to the FIG. 24 example, confliction occurs.

That is, where a controller 208 which is FAV having FCM for LAV corresponding to a reserve command, a controller 207 which is FAV, and a target 209 which is LAV not corresponding to a reserve command are a network connected by IEEE1394 bus, as shown in the example of FIG. 25, since the target 209 is LAV and does not correspond to the reserve command, even if the controller should have a resource manager, resource management could not be done. Accordingly, when these two controllers 207 and 208 attempt to carry out operation of the target 209,

confliction similar to that mentioned above occurs.

Where a controller 214 having FCM for BAV not corresponding to a reserve command, a controller 213 which is FAV, and a target 215 which is BAV not corresponding to a reserve command are a network connected by IEEE1394 bus, as shown in the example of FIG. 26, since the target 215 is BAV of a model in conformity to HAVi but does not correspond to the reserve command, even if the controller should have a resource manager, resource management could not be done. Accordingly, even if all the networks should be constructed by the model in conformity to HAVi, when these two controllers 213 and 214 attempt to carry out operation of the target 209, confliction similar to that mentioned above occurs.

Further, where in a network in which a controller 217 which is LAV without resource manager, a controller 216 which is likewise IAV without resource manager, and a target 218 which is LAV or BAV (BAV having own DCM, FCM) are connected by IEEE1394 bus, as shown in the example of FIG. 27, the controllers make reservations at a target, since both the controllers 216 and 217 are LAV and have not source manager, the resource management cannot be done. Accordingly, when these two controllers 216 and 217 attempt to carry out operation of the target 218, confliction similar to that mentioned above occurs.

Where a control object device which is a target is under the control of single equipment which is a controller, all control request from other control equipment are eliminated whereby confliction of control between control equipment can be avoided.

However, by the mere response of the elimination to the control requests, the aforementioned other control equipment cannot distinguish whether the state that the control equipment occupies the control object device or the state that the control object device cannot be controlled for separate reasons. For example, where the digital VTR 203 in the FIG. 24 example receives a control request of reproduction in a power-off state, it repeats a response representative of rejection despite control is not occupied by anybody. Accordingly, the control equipment is necessary to know the state of the control object device in further detail.

Further, in the case of a network constructed by merely by LAV on which a resource manager is not actually mounted, since the respective LAV has no resource manager representative of the occupied state of a control object device, it is not possible to know whether or not certain control equipment obtains possessory rights to control the control object device.

Moreover, in the case of a network system having no equipment in conformity to HAVi, since a function representative of the occupied state of the control object device is not present, the respective control equipment cannot know easily the occupied state of control of the control object device.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention has been accomplished in view of the circumstances noted above, and has its object to provide a control apparatus and method, medium

wherein even in the case where control equipment in conformity to a fixed standard, control equipment not in conformity to a fixed standard, and a control object device capable of being controlled by the control equipment are mixed on a network, inconvenience that these control equipment simultaneously control the control object device not in conformity to a fixed standard can be avoided.

The control apparatus and method according to the present invention detects the using circumstances of the control object device to control the control object device on the basis of the detected result whereby solving the above-mentioned problem.

As the above-described control object device, there can be listed, as examples, recording and or reproducing equipment, a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape coder, a compact disc device, a minidisc device, office selecting equipment, an amplifier and so on.

Further, the control apparatus and method according to the present invention judges whether or not the control object device is usable on the basis of the detected result, and when judged to be unusable, an alarm signal is produced, the alarm signal capable of being displayed. In judging whether usable or unusable, it is possible to judge whether or not the control object device is usable on the basis of the result of decision of presence or absence of the setting of the possessory rights or of the detected result.

Further, in the control apparatus and method according to the present invention, the status change of the control object device is detected, and the using circumstances

of the control object device is detected in accordance with the detected result of the status change. Or, the using circumstances of the control object device may be detected from the status itself of the control object device. As the status change of the control object device, there can be listed a change of a control status value of a disc device or a change of a control status value of a tape device or a change of a control status value of a semiconductor device, a change of a value of a record passage time counter or a change of a value of a reproducing passage time counter, a change of a value of a tape counter or a change of a field value or a change of a track number, and an office number as the status itself.

Furthermore, in the control apparatus and method according to the present invention, the detection of the using circumstances of the control object device can be carried out every given time. Further, the control apparatus and method according to the present invention decide the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights with respect to the control object device, and when the decision of possessory rights with respect to the control object device cannot be done, the detection of the using circumstances of the control object device is also carried out. Further, whether or not the control object device is usable is judged on the basis of the result of decision of the presence or absence of the setting of the possessory rights or the detected result. The decision of the presence or absence of the setting of the possessory rights is carried out on the basis of a fixed standard. As the fixed standard, there can be listed an IEEE1394 Standard, and the network can be an IEEE1394 bus.

Further, in detecting the using circumstances, performed are that ON/OFF of a power supply of the control object device is judged, and in accordance with the result of the judgment of the state of a power supply, the using circumstances of the control object device is detected; that whether the control object device is recording and/or reproducing equipment is judged, and the using circumstances of the control object device is detected in accordance with the result of the equipment judgment; and that whether or not the control object device is office selecting equipment is judged, and the using circumstances of the control object device is detected in accordance with the result of the equipment judgment. When the control object device is the recording and/or reproducing equipment, whether or not the status of the recording and/or reproducing equipment is decided is judged whereby the using circumstances of the recording and/or reproducing equipment is detected, and when the control object device is the office selecting equipment, whether or not the office selecting status of the office selecting equipment is decided is judged whereby the using circumstances of the office selecting equipment is detected.

The control object device is one or all equipment except the own connected on the network.

Next, the medium according to the present invention causes an information processing apparatus to execute a program which includes a step of detecting the using circumstances of a control object device and a step of controlling the control object device on the basis of the result of the detection.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a view showing the constitution of a bus system to which the present invention is applied.

FIG. 2 is a view showing the constitution of a set top box and a digital VTR in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart used in explanation of a flow of the whole control object device monitoring operation in a control object device monitoring function section.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart used in explanation of a detailed flow of Step 4 in the flow chart of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart used in explanation of a concrete flow of Step 10 in the flow chart of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart used in explanation of a concrete flow of operation of a target control according to a HAVi module group based on a report from the control object device monitoring function section.

FIG. 7 is a view used in explanation of a format of a FCP frame

FIG. 8 is a view used in explanation of a command register and a response register.

FIG. 9 is a view used in explanation of a format of an AV/C command frame.

FIG. 10 is a view used in explanation of a format of an AV/C response frame.

FIG. 11 is a view used in explanation of a command type.

FIG. 12 is a view used in explanation of a sub-unit type.

FIG. 13 is a view used in explanation of a sub-unit ID.

FIG. 14 is a view used in explanation of a format of a reserve control command.

FIG. 15 is a view used in explanation of a priority stored.

FIG. 16 is a view used in explanation of a format of a reserve status command.

FIG. 17 is a view used in explanation of a response code.

FIG. 18 is a view used in explanation of a quick transaction of AV/C.

FIG. 19 is a view used in explanation of a delayed transaction of AV/C.

FIGS. 20 A to H are views used in explanation of a medium.

FIG. 21 is a view used in explanation of main software elements defined in the HAVi basic specification.

FIG. 22 is a view used in explanation of FAV, IAV, BAV, and LAV mentioned in HAVi.

FIG. 23 is a view showing a constitutional example where devices of four categories, FAV, IAV, BAV, and LAV are connected to an IEEE1394 bus.

FIG. 24 is a view used in explanation of problems where a FAV controller and an LAV controller in conformity to HAVi on a network.

FIG. 25 is a view used in explanation of problems where a controller which FAV having FCM for LAV corresponding to a reserve command and a controller which is FAV control a target which is LAV not corresponding to a reserve command.

FIG. 26 is a view used in explanation of problems where a controller (214) of FAV uploads DCM not corresponding to a reserve command from BAV, and a

controller (214) of FAV controls a target (215) of BAV to an interface.

FIG. 27 is a view used in explanation of problems where two controllers which are IAV without resource manager control a target which is LAV or BAV BAV having own DCM and FCM)

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will be describe hereinafter with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 shows one constitutional example of an IEEE1394 to which the present invention is applied. In this one constitutional example, a set top box (STB) 24 which is a device corresponding to FAV mentioned in HAVi and IAV corresponding to a resource manager, an LAV controller (for example, STB) 22 corresponding to LAV mentioned in HAVi, and a digital VTR (for example, a digital VHS tape recorder) 23 which is a device corresponding to LAV mentioned in HAVi are connected to an IEEE1394 bus 21. In FIG. 1, the digital VTR is shown as a control object device, which is however one example, and the present invention can be also applied to various recording and/or reproducing devices, for example, such as a digital versatile disc or digital video disc (DVD) device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape coder, and a minidisc (MD) device, a reproducing device such as a compact disc (CD) device, and others such as a semiconductor device, an office selecting device (tuner), an amplifier (Amp) and so on.

In this constitution, the digital VTR 23 is a target, and the set top box 24 and the LAV controller 22 are controllers for controlling the digital VTR 23.

The set top box 24 receives an electric wave broadcast from a satellite not shown through a parabola antenna 31 to output it to an IRD (Integrated Receiver/Decoder) module 41. The IRD module 41 decodes and processes a signal supplied from the parabola antenna 31. An application module 42 controls The IRD module 41 and an IEEE1394 module 44 in response to an operating signal generated when a remote controller (not shown) or an operating panel 43 provided on the main body of the set top box 24 is operated by a user. The IEEE1394 module 44 executes interface processing with respect to the IEEE1394 bus 21. The application module 42, the IRD module 41, and the IEEE1394 module 44 are respectively modules in conformity to HAVi, and in FIG. 1, the modules in conformity to HAVi are shown collectively as a HAVi module group 45.

Further, the set top box 24 is provided with a control object device monitoring function section 40 for monitoring the control status of a control object device such as LAV connected to the IEEE1394 bus 21. The detailed operation of the control object device monitoring function section 40 will be described later.

FIG. 2 shows a further detailed constitutional example of the set top box 24 and the digital VTR 23. The IRD module 41 of the set top box 24 receives a signal from a fixed transponder of a satellite out of signals supplied to a tuner 51 from the antenna 31 in response to a command from a CPU (Central Processing Unit) 71 and outputs

it to a front end part 52. The front end part 52 decodes the signal input from the tuner 51 to output it to a descramble circuit 53.

The descramble circuit 53 descrambles data supplied from the front end part 52 on the basis of code key information of a contract channel stored in an IC card (not shown) mounted on the IRD module 41, and outputs it to a demultiplexer 54. The demultiplexer 54 rearranges data supplied from the descramble circuit 53 every channel, removes a component of the channel corresponding to a command from CPU 71 (a command from a user), outputs a video stream comprising a video packet to a MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) video decoder 55, and outputs an audio stream comprising an audio packet to a MPEG audio decoder 58.

The MPEG video decoder 55 decodes the video stream input and outputs it to a NTSC encoder 56. The NTSC encoder 56 converts video data input from the MPEG video decoder 55 into video data of the NTSC system, further D/A converts it into a D/A converter circuit 57, and outputs it to a monitor 61.

The MPEG audio decoder 58 decodes the audio stream supplied from the demultiplexer 54 in the MPEG system, restores PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) audio data before being compressed and coded, and outputs it to a D/A converter circuit 59. The D/A converter circuit 59 converts the PCM audio data into an analog audio signal of a left channel and an analog audio signal of a right channel to supply them to a loudspeaker (not shown) of the monitor 61.

The output of the MPEG audio decoder 58 is input into an IEEE1394 interface

81 of the IEEE1394 module 44, and enables outputting it to the IEEE1394 from the IEEE1394 interface 81, if necessary.

In this embodiment, the application module 42 is composed of a CPU for controlling parts of the set top box 24, a RAM (Random Access Memory) 72, and a work RAM 73.

In the RAM 72, programs processed by the CPU 71 are suitably developed. In the work RAM 73 are suitably stored data required in executing various processes by the CPU 71.

In this embodiment, the IEEE1394 is composed of an IEEE1394 interface 81.

On the other hand, in the digital VTR 23, a mechanical section 112 is provided with a mechanism for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal and a digital video signal, operation of which is controlled by a mechanical control CPU 113.

The digital audio signal and the digital video signal reproduced from a video tape in the mechanical section 112 are sent to a signal processing circuit 111.

Further, in the digital VTR 23, an analog video signal, a ground wave television signal, and for example a BS (satellite broadcast) signal can be input into a terminal 101, a terminal 102, and a terminal 103, respectively. The ground wave television signal and the BS signal are suitably selected by a changeover switch 104 and received by a BS/ground wave tuner 106. A BS signal or a ground wave television signal output from the BS/ground wave tuner 106 and an analog video signal are sent to the signal processing circuit 111 suitably selected by a changeover switch 107.

The signal processing circuit 111 applies signal processing corresponding to a signal selected out of the analog vide signal, BS signal and ground wave television signal, or a digital audio signal and a digital video signal reproduced from a video tape by the mechanical section 112, and a digital audio signal and a digital video signal supplied through the IEEE1394 if necessary to produce an audio signal and a video signal to be output to a television set. Where the digital VTR 23 is a VTR provided with a function corresponding to the MPEG encode and decode processing, the signal processing circuit 111 also takes charge of the MPEG encode and decode processing. The audio signal and the video signal produced by the signal processing circuit 111 is sent to a television set connected to a terminal 114.

A mode control CPU 109 of the digital VTR 23 control parts of the digital VTR 23. The mode control CPU 109 executes various processes on the basis of data and programs suitably stored in RAM.

An IEEE1394 interface 110 executes interface processing with respect to the IEEE1394 bus 21. The IEEE1394 interface 110 delivers control data supplied, for example, from the set top box 24 and the LAV controller 22 to the mode control CPU 109 through the IEEE1394 bus 21. The IEEE1394 interface 110 outputs a digital audio signal and a digital video signal supplied, for example, from the set top box 24 to the signal processing circuit 111 through the IEEE1394 bus 21.

It is noted that both the set top box 24 as a controller and the LAV controller 22 which is LAV are possible to control the digital VTR 23 which is LAV.

Accordingly, where the set top box 24 and the LAV controller 22 simultaneously control the digital VTR 23 as a target, there possibly occurs inconvenience that the digital VTR 23 is simultaneously controlled by the set top box 24 and the LAV controller 22.

In view of the above, in the present embodiment, by the provision of the control object device monitoring function section 40 in the set top box 24 corresponding to FAV and IAV mentioned in HAVi, it is possible to avoid the occurrence of simultaneous control with respect to LAV as mentioned above.

That is, in the present embodiment, the control object device monitoring function section 40 of the set top box 24 inquires about statuses of devices connected to the IEEE1394 bus 21 to thereby monitor whether the present status of a device (a control object device) intended to be controlled as a target by the set top box 24 is the status placed under the control (under the operation) of other equipment, result of which is fed back to the HAVi module group 45, and further, the HAVi module group 45 displays, upon receipt of the monitoring result, to give a user on the set top box 24 side a warning, for example, thereby enabling avoidance of occurrence of the above-described inconvenient in advance.

Now, the control object device monitoring function section 40 performs, as an example of a concrete procedure for realizing the control object device monitoring function, detection if, by polling the status of a target, the target is controlled by the other equipment at present. The control object device monitoring function section 40

in the present embodiment also performs judgment, prior to the above-described detection, if the possessory rights of equipment caused by a reserve command out of AV/C commands in the IEEE1394 are already set to the target. If the possessory rights caused by the AV/C reserve command is not set, the above-described detection is carried out. In the case of the present embodiment, where whether or not the control object device caused by the reserve command is reserved is unclear, monitoring of the using circumstances of the control object device becomes more positive by using the above-described detecting means, but the monitoring of the using circumstances of the control object device is enabled even merely by the above-described detecting means. The reserve command in the AV/C command will be described in detail later.

FIG. 3 shows a flow of the whole equipment monitoring operation in the control object device monitoring function section 40. It is noted that in the control object device monitoring operation described below, the set top box 24 may perform with respect to all the equipment on the network or merely with respect to the specific control object device.

In FIG. 3, the control object device monitoring function section 40 inquires, first, as the processing of Step S1, of the individual control object devices connected to the IEEE1394 bus 21 about the possessory state by the reserve status command, and then, judges, as the processing of Step 2, if being occupied, or not occupied, or unclear, or making re-inquiry, depending on the contents of the response from the individual control object devices. Where the response is stable, and the return value

within the response packet is one other than "0" which is a value defined in the AV/C command, judgment is made to be occupied. On the other hand, where the response is stable, and the return value within the response packet is "0" which is a value defined in the AV/C command, judgment is made not to be occupied. On the other hand, where the response is "not implement" and "rejected", and where the response is not returned and the fixed response-waiting time has passed, judgment is made to be unclear. Where the response is in transition, an inquiry is made again by the reserve status command.

In the Step S2, where the control object device having been judged to be reserved is present, that is, where the control object device is present which is judged that the response to the issue of the reserve status command is stable, the return value within the response packet is a value other than "0" and the possessory rights of equipment is already set, the control object device monitoring function section 40 puts up, as the processing of Step S3, "1" on a flag showing that the control object device is already controlled by other equipment (called a flag during control in the present embodiment).

On the other hand, where in the Step S2, in the case of the control object device having been judged not to be reserved by the reserve status command, that is, in the case of the judgment in which the return value within the response packet with respect to the reserve status command is "0" and the possessory rights of equipment is not set, the control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds to the processing of

Step S5, and puts up a flag during control showing that the control object device is not controlled.

Further, in Step S2, where the control object device is present which cannot be judged, depending on the reserve status command, whether or not the reservation is made, that is, where the response is “not implemented” and “rejected”, or where the response is not returned to make judgment that the fixed waiting time has passed and being unclear, the control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds to the processing of Step S4. Where the response is “in transition”, the procedure proceeds to Step 1 in order to make reinquiry by the reserve status command.

In the processing of Step S4, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges, by the detection, whether or not the control object device is controlled by other equipment. That is, in this case, the control object device monitoring function section 40 tries to make polling the status of the control object device thereby making detection whether or not the device is controlled by other equipment. The detailed flow of the Step 4 will be described later. In the Step S4, where judgment is made such that the device is controlled by other equipment (where detection is made that control is present), the control object device monitoring function section 40 puts up, as the processing of Step S3, “1” on a flag during control showing that the control object device is already controlled by other equipment.

On the other hand, in the Step S4, where judgment is made such that the device is not controlled by other equipment (where detection is made that control is absent),

the control object device monitoring function section 40 puts up, as the processing of Step S5, "0" on a flag during control showing that the control object device is not controlled by other equipment.

Next, FIG. 4 shows a detailed flow of the processing of Step 4 in FIG. 3.

First, the control object device monitoring function section 40 clears (initializes), as Step 9 of FIG. 4, both values of a status change counter for counting the status change of the control object device and a detection counter for counting the number of times of monitoring operation to "0". The status change of the control object device is different depending on to which the control object device belongs. For example, where the control object device is a disc device, the status change is a change of control status value of the disc device, where the control object device is a tape device, the status change is a change of control status value of the tape device, and where the control object device is a semiconductor device, the status change is a change of control status value of the semiconductor device. As more concrete examples of the status changes of the control object device, there can be listed, for example, such as a change of a recording passage time counter in a recording and reproducing device, a change of a reproducing passage time counter, a change of a frame value, a change of a field value, a change of a track number, a change of a tape counter value in case of a tape device, and an office number in case of a tuner.

Next, with respect to the control object device judged to be unclear in Step S2 in FIG. 3, the control object device monitoring function section 40 obtains, as the

processing of Step 10 in FIG. 4, the present mode information of the control object device by reception of AV/C commands to judge the using circumstances. Mode information here include, where the control object device is a digital VTR, a value of a tape counter in a mechanical mode (mechanical states (such as play, and stop)), and a value of power ON/OFF. The control object device monitoring function section 40 obtains these values. After the processing of Step S10, The control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds to the processing of Step S11.

When proceeding to Step S11, the control object device monitoring function section 40 compares the thus obtained mode information with the previous value already obtained. In the present embodiment, as the mode information, for example, a tape counter value of a digital VTR is obtained for comparison. Where the mode information is obtained for the first time, the processing of the Step S11 is passed. In the Step S11 processing, where as the result of comparison between the previous mode information and the mode information obtained this time, judgment is made that the value changed, the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S13, and where judgment is made that there is no change, the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S12.

The control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds, when proceeded to the processing of Step S13, to the processing of Step S 14 after the internal status change counter value has been incremented by 1, and when proceeded to the processing of Step S12, proceeds to the processing of Step S14 leaving the

internal status change counter value. The status change counter is prepared for all the control object devices judged to be unclear in Step S2 of FIG. 3.

When proceeds to the processing of Step S14, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges whether or not the status change counter value is larger than a fixed value (for example, 5); where judgment is made to be larger than the fixed value, the procedure proceeds to Step S16, and where judgment is made to be smaller than the fixed value, the procedure proceeds to Step S15.

When proceeds to Step S16 upon judgment that the status change counter value is larger than the fixed value in the processing of Step S14, the control object device monitoring function section 40 decides that the control object device corresponding to the status change counter value is controlled by other equipment (for example, the LAV controller 22 in FIG. 1).

On the other hand, when proceeds to Step S16 upon judgment that the status change counter value is smaller than the fixed value in the processing of Step S14, the control object device monitoring function section 40 decides that the control object device corresponding to the status change counter value is not controlled by other equipment (for example, the LAV controller 22 in FIG. 1).

By the judgment of these Steps S16 and S15, the control object device monitoring function section 40 obtains the result of judgment as to the presence or absence of control in the processing of Step S4 in FIG. 3. That is, where in Step S16, decision is made that the control object device is controlled by the other controller, the

result of judgment (predicted result) that the control is present is obtained in Step S4 in FIG. 3, whereby in Step S3 of FIG. 3, "1" is put up on a flag during control. On the other hand, where in Step S15, decision is made that the control object device is not controlled by the other controller, the result of judgment (detected result) that the control is absent is obtained in Step S4 in FIG. 3, whereby in Step S5 of FIG. 3, "0" is put up on a flag during control.

After the processing of the Steps S15 and S16, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges, as the processing of Step S17, whether or not a fixed time set to be longer time than the time intervals where the status change of the control object device occurs has passed. For example, the time twice of the time required for incrementing a tape counter by 1 is set. After the passage of the fixed time in Step S17, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges, as the processing of Step S18, a value of the detection counter is increased (increment) by 1 (+1). Then, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges, as the processing of Step S19, whether the detection processing whether or not the state changed is repeated, or is returned to the original processing. That is, the control object device monitoring function section 40 returns, as the processing of Step S19, to the processing of Step S10 if the value of the detection counter is, for example, smaller than 6, returns to the original processing if the value of the detection counter is larger than 6, and performs the branch processing to Step S3 and Step S5 in FIG. 3 according to the detected results obtained in Step S15 and Step S16 (whether or not

the control object device is controlled by other control equipment).

While the aforementioned FIG. 4 flow chart has been described taking up the digital VTR as the control object device, as an example, it is noted that the present invention can be also applied to other equipment not limiting to the digital VTR. In the following, a disc drive (such as a disc recorder and a disc player), VTR, other various players, a tuner, and an amplifier are taken up as examples of the control object devices, and in the case of these control object devices, a concrete example of the processing carried out in Step S10 in a flow chart of FIG. 4 is shown in FIG. 5.

In FIG. 5, the control object device monitoring function section 40 first inquires, as the processing of Step S31, about the power supply state of the control object device, and then judges, as the processing of Step S32, whether the power supply of the control object device is ON or OFF. Where judgment is made in Step S32 that the power supply of the control object device is OFF, the processing of the control object device monitoring function section 40 directly proceeds to Step S12 (not shown in FIG. 4), whereas where judgment is made that the device is ON, proceeds to the processing of Step 33.

When proceeds to the processing of Step S33, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges whether the control object device is , equipment having recording function and/or reproducing function, for example, such as a disc drive, VTR, and a player or equipment other than the former, and where judgement is made that it is equipment having recording function and or reproducing

function, the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S34, otherwise the procedure proceeds to Step S36.

When proceeds to the processing of Step S34, the control object device monitoring function section 40 inquires about the present mechanical state of the control object device of the equipment having recording function and or reproducing function, and then judges, as the processing of Step S35, whether or not the mechanical state is decided.

As the processing of judgment whether or not the mechanical state in Step S35 is decided, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges that the mechanical state of the equipment is decided or unclear according to the contents of the response from the control object device, for example.

That is, the control object device monitoring function section 40 first transmits a status command which is one of AV/C commands for inquiring about the mechanical state of the equipment to equipment (for example, VTR) having recording function and/or reproducing function. When the response to this inquiry is stable, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges that the mechanical state is decided. Where the response is not obtained and the response waiting time has passed, it judges to be unclear.

On the other hand, where the state is “In Transition”, other responses are received, or “Not Implemented” or “Rejected” is returned, and the response is not obtained and the response waiting time has passed, the control object device

monitoring function section 40 judges to be unclear.

Where in Step S35, judgment is made that the mechanical state is decided, the processing of the control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds to Step S11 of FIG. 4. On the other hand, Where in Step S35, judgment is made that the mechanical state is not decided, the processing of the control object device monitoring function section 40 directly proceeds to Step S13 of FIG. 4 (not shown in FIG. 4).

With respect to the above-described “Stable”, “In Transition”, “Not Implemented”, and “Rejected”, there is described in detail in Reference 1, “AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification Version 3.0 (issued by 1394TA AVWG), page 17 (7.3 Status commands), description of which is therefore omitted.

When in the Step S33, judgment is made of equipment other than equipment having recording function and/or reproducing function, and the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S36, the control object device monitoring function section 40 judges whether or not the control object device is, for example, a tuner. Where judgment is made in Step S36 that the control object device is not a tuner (for example, an amplifier is included here), the processing of the control object device monitoring function section 40 proceeds to Step S13 of FIG. 4, and where judgment is made that the device is not a tuner, the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S37.

When the procedure proceeds to the processing of Step S37, the control object device monitoring function section 40 inquires of the control object device (tuner)

about the present office selecting state, and judges, as the processing of Step S38, whether or not the state of the office selection is coincided.

For judging whether or not the state of the office selection is coincided, the control object device monitoring function section 40 first obtains the access right to a tuner subunit status descriptor as data base having the state of the tuner described therein by an open descriptor control command which is one of AV/C commands. Next, the control object device monitoring function section 40 reads out a source plug status area having office selecting information described therein by a read descriptor control command which is one of AV/C commands.

The control object device monitoring function section 40 judges the state of the office selection by the response of the inquiring commands.

That is, for example, when the response of a command for obtaining the access right of data base in which the first tuner state is described is "Accepted", the control object device monitoring function section 40 obtains the access right of the data base, and the procedure proceeds to next command processing.

On the other hand, when the response is "Rejected" or "Not Implemented", the control object device monitoring function section 40 cannot obtain the access right and judges that the office selecting state is unclear. Then, the procedure proceeds directly to Step S13 (not shown in FIG. 4).

Further, when the response is "Interim", the control object device monitoring function section 40 awaits till the response is returned. However, where the response

is not returned and the response waiting time has passed, judgment is made of unclear, and the procedure proceeds directly to Step S13 (not shown in FIG. 4).

Next, when the response of a command for reading out a source plug status in which office selecting information is present is “Accepted”, the control object device monitoring function section 40 can obtain office selecting information, and evaluates the data status and the information type status of a source plug status area in which the read-out office selecting information is present to decide the office selecting state.

Judgment is made whether or not the office being already used by the control object device is coincided with the office desired to be used by the control equipment. In the case of the same, judgment is made to be controllable, and the procedure proceeds directly to Step S12 (not shown in FIG. 4). On the other hand, in the case of difference, the control is regarded to be impossible, and the procedure proceeds directly to Step S13 (not shown in FIG. 4).

The above-described open descriptor control command is described in detail in Reference 1, page 49, “10.1 OPEN DESCRIPTOR Command”, details of which are omitted. The above-described read descriptor control command is described in detail in Reference 1, page 55, “10.2 READ DESCRIPTOR Command”. The above described tuner subunit status descriptor is described in detail in Reference 1, page 26 “4.3 Tuner subunit descriptor”, and page 28, “source plug status [x] fields”. The “Accepted”, “Interim”, “Not Implement”, and “Rejected” are described in detail in Reference 1, “AV/CDigital Interface Command Set General Specification Version 3.0

issued by 1394TA AVWG, page 16 (7.2 Control commands).

Next, FIG. 6 shows a flow of the processing where a set top box 24 (a HAVi module group 40, particularly an application module 42) provided with the control object device monitoring function section 40 control the desired control object device as a target.

In FIG. 6, the HAVi module group 40 of the set top box 24 judges, as the result of a report as to the occupation of each control object device obtained by the monitoring of the individual object devices conducted by the control object device monitoring function section 40 as mentioned above, that is, using the flag during control, as the processing of Step S20, whether the flag during control of the control object device as a target is "1" or "0".

Where in Step S20, judgement is made that the flag during control of the control object device as a target is "0", the HVI module group 40 controls the control object device according to the normal control routine since the control object device is not controlled by other equipment (for example, the LAV controller 22 in FIG. 1).

On the other hand, where in Step S20, judgement is made that the flag during control of the control object device as a target is "1", the HVI module group 40 produces a warning indicating signal, for example, "This device is used for others and cannot be used." to output it to a monitor 61 or the like, since the control object device is controlled by other equipment (for example, the LAV controller 22 in FIG. 1) and cannot be controlled. Thereby, the user of the set top box 24 is possible to know that

the device cannot be controlled.

As described above, according to the present embodiment, it is possible that one equipment cannot be operated simultaneously by a plurality of controllers.

While in the example of FIG. 1 described above, the control object device monitoring function is provided within the device (set top box 24) in conformity to the HAVi, and the control object device monitoring function section 40 is prepared separately from the HAVi module group 45 so that the report of the monitored result by the control object device monitoring function section 40 is notified to the HAVi module group 45, it is noted that the control object device monitoring function can be also included in DCM as one function of the HAVi.

Further, according to the present embodiment, in the control object device monitoring function, the monitoring operation as described above is carried out whereby for example, even in the constitution as shown in FIGS. 25, 26 and 27, confliction can be avoided.

Furthermore, also, for example, in the network constituted merely by equipment corresponding to only the conventional AV/C command, if means for monitoring devices (control object device monitoring function section) within the network is provided, the monitoring operation similar to that mentioned above can be similarly realized.

A series of processings as described above can be executed by the hardware, but can be also executed by the software. Where the series of processings are executed by

the software, a computer in which a program constituting the software is incorporated into the set top box 24 as an exclusive-use hardware, or various programs are installed, whereby they can be installed in, for example, a general-use personal computer capable of executing various functions.

A reserve command of AV/C commands will be described hereinafter.

The reserve command and the response corresponding thereto are provided as one kind of the AV/C command and the response. The AV/C command and the response are transmitted by FCP (Function Control Protocol provided by IEC-1883. FCP is provided to capsule a command for controlling equipment and a response within asynchronous block write transactions of IEEE standard 1394-1995, format of which is constitute as shown in FIG. 7.

As shown in FIG. 7, at the head is arranged a packet header, a FCR frame is then arranged, and finally, data CRC is arranged.

At the head of the packet header is arranged destination ID. The destination ID represents ID of a node to which the packet is transferred. In the figure, t1 indicates a transaction label, representing a unique tag added to the packet from the node. In the figure, rt indicates a retry code, representing a code relating to retry.

In FIG. 7, tcode represents a transaction code, value of which is 0001 in this example. This 0001 represents that this block is a write-in request for the data block.

In FIG. 7, pri represents a priority, by which value, arbitration in a link layer is carried out.

Source ID represents ID of a node for delivering the packet. A destination offset represents an address of a register in which a command or a response of the packet is written.

That is, for example, as shown in FIG. 8, the set top box 24 connected to an IEEE1394 bus has a register 141 within an IEEE1394, and a digital VTR23 has a register 131 within an IEEE1394 interface 110. For example, the digital VTR 23 allows a command and a response transferred through the IEEE1394 bus 21 from the other node to hold in an address of the register 131 provided by the destination offset. Similarly, the set top box 24 also allows a command and a response transferred from the other node to store in an address provided by the destination offset of the register 141. The set top box 24 and the digital VTR 23 read out the command or response stored in these registers 141 and 131.

In FIG. 7, a data length represents a data length in a data field. In the succeeding 2 bytes, a value 0 is described. The final header CRC represents an erroneous detection symbol within the packet header.

In the FCP frame in a pay-load portion is arranged a CTS (Command/Transaction Set) as first 4 bits. In the case of the V/C transaction, the CTS has a value of 0000. Next, FCP data are arranged. The details of the FCP data are shown in FIGS. 9 and 10. FIG. 9 shows a FCP frame of an AV/C command frame, and FIG. 10 shows a FCP frame of an AV/C response frame

In FIG. 9, ctype indicates a command type, and values provided therein means

as shown in FIG. 11. That is, the value 0 means CONTROL, and the value 1 represents STATUS.

A subunit_type represents a kind of subunit which is an object of this command, value 0 thereof means that the kind of subunit is a video monitor, and value 3 represents a disc recorder or player, as shown in FIG. 12

A subunit ID is used as an instant number in case where an expansion subunit type is defined. Values 0 to 4 represent instant numbers, and a value 5 represents that the subunit ID represents that the subunit ID is expanded to next byte, as shown in FIG. 13.

In FIG. 9, opcode represents an operation cord, and in case of reserve, its value is 01, as shown in FIG. 14. Next to the opcode, operand [0] to operand [n], and in case of FIG. 14, n=1 are arranged. A priority is arranged in the operand [0]. This priority provides a relative priority order incidental to a command. The value 9 means that no controller reserves its node. Values I to F mean that a target has reservation for a controller. The value 4 of priority is a standard priority used by a controller.

A target in a free state (not reserved) is reserved by a controller which issues a reserve control command. The target stores a row of texts incidental to the priority reserved, and node ID of 16 bits of a controller. ASCII characters are inserted up to 12 bytes into a text following the priority.

A value held when the value of priority is received by the target is converted as shown in FIG. 15. For example, values 0 and 1 are held as the priority. Values 2 to E

(16 antilogarithm) are held as priority and value E. Value F is held as priority.

The node (target) rejects, when reservation of a fixed controller is held, a control command other than the command type reserve of a control issued from other controllers.

When a reserve control command is received from one and the same controller holding reservation, it is accepted. This allows an original controller to make priority resulting from the reservation higher or lower.

When a reserve control command is received from a controller other than controllers having made reservation, the target rejects its command as long as the priority is not higher than the priority of the present reservation. When a new priority is higher than the present priority, a new reservation is established.

Where a reserve control command is issued to an AV unit having a subunit holding reservation of equal or higher priority, the reserve control command returns a rejected response.

Where a reserve control command is issued to an AV unit not including a subunit having equal or higher priority, the reservation is established.

Where a control command is issued to a subunit within the AV unit reserved by a controller other than controllers which issued a control command, its control command is rejected.

The AV unit resets, when a bus reset is detected, priority of the reservation to 0, and set all of reservation node ID and reservation text to 1. The AV unit rejects all

commands of a command type of a control except the reserve command till the reservation is established or till 10 seconds pass. This procedure allows an original reservation holder to re-establish reservation after the bus reset.

Each controller never issue a reserve control command within 10 seconds from the bus reset except the case where reservation has been established for the target prior to the bus reset. Since the node ID of the AV unit is changed after the bus reset, a controller which desires to establish the reservation examines the node unique ID.

From the these circumstances, the target presumes that a reserve command received within 10 seconds of the bus reset to receive the reservation.

The controller is able to request the present state of reservation by issuing a reserve command having a field of a command type of STATUS shown in FIG. 16.

The AV/C response frame shown in FIG. 10 is also basically constituted similarly to the AV/C command frame shown in FIG. 9, but a response is arranged in place of ctype in FIG. 9. This response means a response code, and values 0 to F represents the meaning shown in FIG. 17. For example, there represents that the value 8 is not adapted (not implemented) to the command request, and that the value 9 accepted the command requested. Further, there represents that the value A rejected the corresponding command.

As shown in FIG. 18, when a controller issues an AV/C command to a target, the target issues it where a response can be issued within 100 ms to the command.

On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 19, where after receipt of a command,

corresponding processing cannot be completed within 100 ms, an INTERIM response is issued before 100 ms pass. Afterwards, when the processing is completed, the target issues a final response.

In the following, a medium used for the purpose of installing a program for executing a series of processings described above, for example, in a computer to place it executable by the computer will be described with reference to FIG. 20 taking as an example the case where the computer is a general-use personal computer.

A program can be presented for a user in the state being preinstalled in a hard disc 302 and a semiconductor memory 303 as a recording medium housed in a personal computer, as shown in FIG. 20A.

Alternatively, a program may be stored temporarily or permanently in recording media such as a floppy disc 311 shown in FIG. 20B, CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Disc) 312 shown in FIG. 20C, MO (Magneto-Optical) disc 313. shown in FIG. 20D, DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) 314 shown in FIG. 20E, a magnetic disc 315 shown in FIG. 20F, and a semiconductor memory 316 shown in FIG. 20G, and can be presented as a package software.

Further, the program can be, as shown in FIG. 20H, transferred by way of wireless from a download site 321 to a personal computer 323 through a man-made satellite 322 for digital satellite broadcasting, and transferred by way of wire to a personal computer 301 through a network 331 such as a local area network and an internet; and in the computer 301, the program can be stored in a hard disc 302 housed

therein.

The medium termed in the present embodiment means a conception in a broad sense including all these media.

It is noted in the present embodiment that the steps of described programs presented by the media include a processing carried out in a manner of time series in order described, of course, and a processing executed in parallel or individually even not always being processed in a manner of time series.

Industrial Applicability

According to the control apparatus and method, medium of the present invention, the using circumstances of a control object device is detected, and control of the control object device is carried out on the basis of the detected result, whereby even where for example, a control apparatus in conformity to a fixed standard, a control apparatus not in conformity to a fixed standard, and a control object device that can be controlled by the respective control apparatuses are mixed, for example, on a network, there can be avoided inconvenience the control object devices not in conformity to a fixed standard are controlled by the respective control apparatuses simultaneously.

CLAIMS

1. A control apparatus having detection means for detecting the using circumstances of a control object device,

wherein said control object device is controlled on the basis of the detected results of said detection means.

2. The control apparatus according to claim 1 comprising:

use enablement/disablement judgment means for judging enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of the detected results; and

warning signal producing means for producing a warning signal when disablement of use is judged by said use enablement/disablement judgment means.

3. The control apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising display means for displaying said warning signal.

4. The control apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said detection means detects a status change of said control object device, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the detected result of said status change.

5. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said control object device is recording and/or reproducing equipment.

6. The control apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said control object device at least includes a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape

coder, a compact disc device, ad a minidisc device.

7. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of control status values of a disc device or a change of control status values of a tape device or a change of control status value of a semiconductor device.

8. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a recording passage time counter value or a change of a reproducing passage time counter value.

9. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a tape counter value or a change of a frame value or a change of a field value or a change of a track number.

10. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device every fixed time.

11. The control apparatus according to claim 1 comprising decision means for deciding the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights relative to said control object device, wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device when decision of possessory rights relative to said control object device cannot be made.

12. The control apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said decision means decides the presence or absence of the setting of said possessory rights on the basis of a fixed standard.

13. The control apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said fixed standard is an IEEE1394 standard.

14. The control apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said use enablement/disablement judgment means judges enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of the decided result of said decision means or the detected result of said detection means.

15. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said control object device is one or all equipment except the own connected to a network.

16. The control apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said network is an IEEE1394 bus.

17. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges ON/OFF of a power supply of said control object device, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said power supply state judgement.

18. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges whether said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment or not, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said equipment judgement.

19. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges, when said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment, whether the state of said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment

is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said control object device.

20. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges whether said control object device is office selection equipment or not, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said equipment judgement.

21. The control apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said detection means judges, when said control object device is said office selection equipment, whether the state of said office selection by said office selection equipment is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said office selection equipment.

22. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device from the state itself of said control object device.

23. The control apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said control object device is an office selection equipment or an amplifier.

24. The control apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the state of said control object device is an office number.

25. A control method for detecting the using circumstances of a control object device to carry out controlling of said control object on the basis of said detected result.

26. The control method according to claim 25 wherein judgment is made of

enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of said detected result, and when judgment is made of disablement of use, a warning signal is produced.

27. The control method according to claim 26 wherein said warning signal is displayed.

28. The control method according to claim 25 wherein a state change of said control object device is detected, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the detected result of said state change.

29. The control method according to claim 28 wherein said control object device is recording and/or reproducing equipment.

30. The control method according to claim 29 wherein said control object device at least includes a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape coder, a compact disc device, ad a minidisc device.

31. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of control status values of a disc device or a change of control status values of a tape device or a change of control status value of a semiconductor device.

32. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a recording passage time counter value or a change of a reproducing passage time counter value.

33. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said

control object device is a change of a tape counter value or a change of a frame value or a change of a field value or a change of a track number.

34. The control method according to claim 25 wherein detection of the using circumstances of said control object device is carried out every fixed time.

35. The control method according to claim 25 wherein decision of the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights relative to said control object device is decided, and when the decision of possessory rights relative to said control object device cannot be made, the using circumstances of said control object device is detected.

36. The control method according to claim 35 wherein the presence or absence of the setting of said possessory rights is decided on the basis of a fixed standard.

37. The control method according to claim 36 wherein said fixed standard is an IEEE1394 standard.

38. The control method according to claim 35 wherein the enablement/disablement of use of said control object device is judged on the basis of the decided result of said decision means or the detected result of said detection means.

39. The control method according to claim 25 wherein said control object device is one or all equipment except the own connected to a network.

40. The control method according to claim 39 wherein said network is an IEEE1394 bus.

41. The control method according to claim 25 wherein ON/OFF of a power supply

of said control object device is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said power supply state judgement.

42. The control method according to claim 25 wherein whether said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment or not is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said equipment judgement.

43. The control method according to claim 42 wherein when said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment, whether the state of said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said control object device.

44. The control method according to claim 25 wherein whether said control object device is office selection equipment or not is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said equipment judgement.

45. The control method according to claim 44 wherein when said control object device is said office selection equipment, whether the state of said office selection by said office selection equipment is decided or not is judged to thereby detect the using circumstances of said office selection equipment.

46. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the using circumstances of said control object device is detected from the state itself of said control object device.

47. The control method according to claim 46 wherein said control object device is an office selection equipment or an amplifier.

48. The control method according to claim 46 wherein the state of said control object device is an office number.

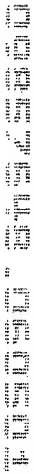
49. A medium for allowing an information processing device to execute a program including:

a step of detecting the using circumstances of a control object device; and

a step of carrying out controlling of said control object device on the basis of said detected result.

ABSTRACT

The using circumstances of a control object device are detected, and controlling of the control object device is carried out on the basis of the detected result. Thereby, where control equipment in conformity to a fixed standard, control equipment not in conformity to a fixed standard, and a control object device are mixed in a network, there can be avoided inconvenience in which the respective control equipment control the control object devices simultaneously.



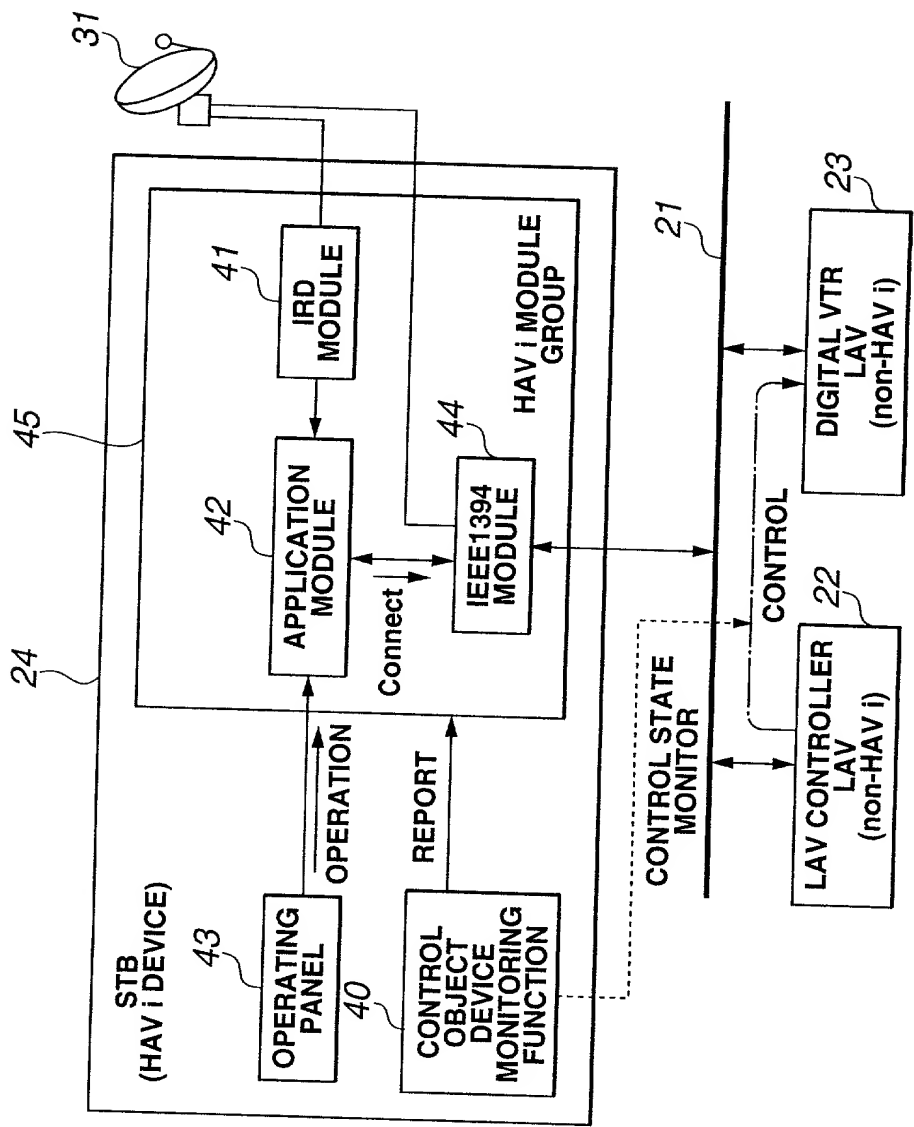


FIG.1

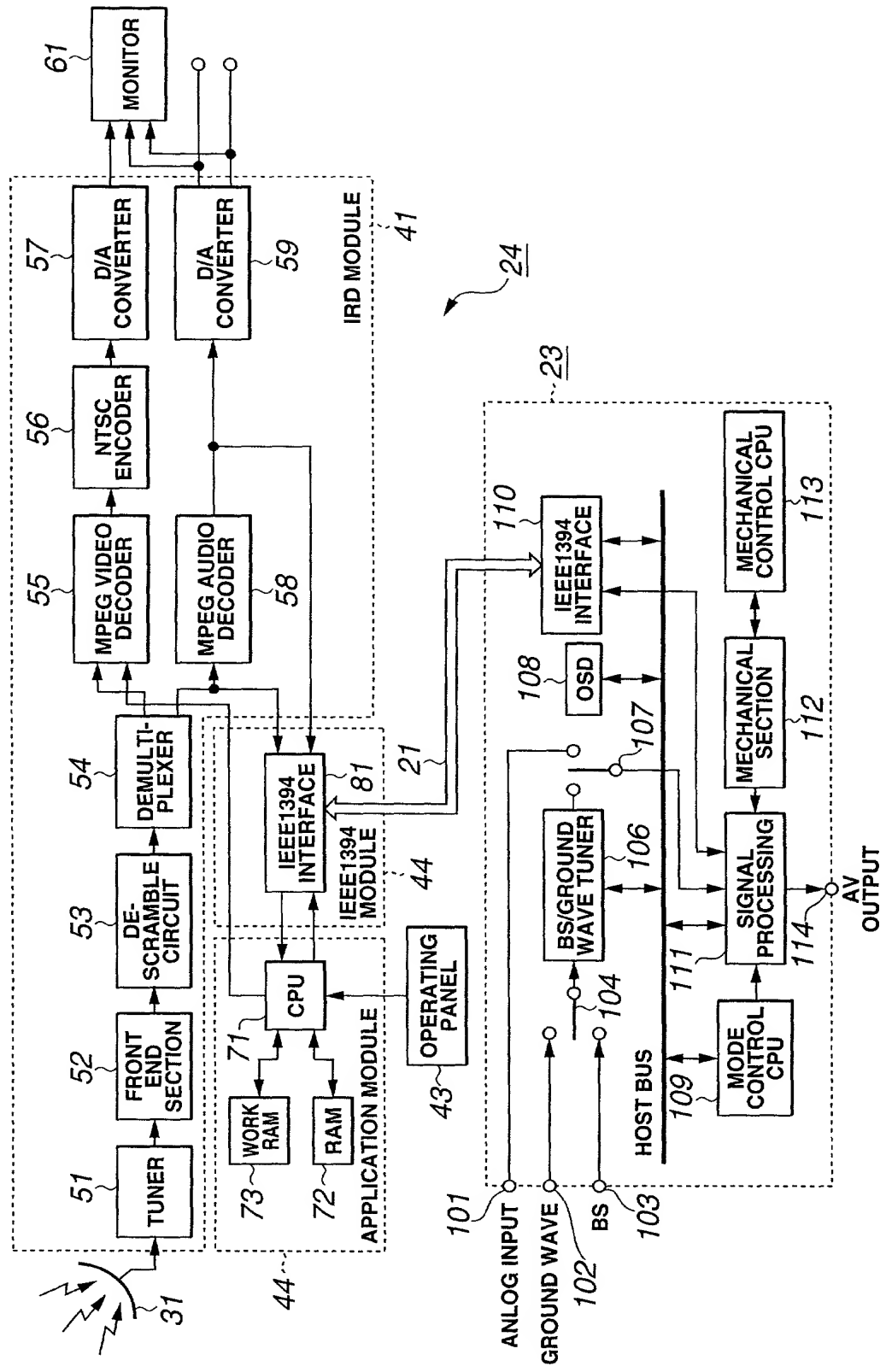
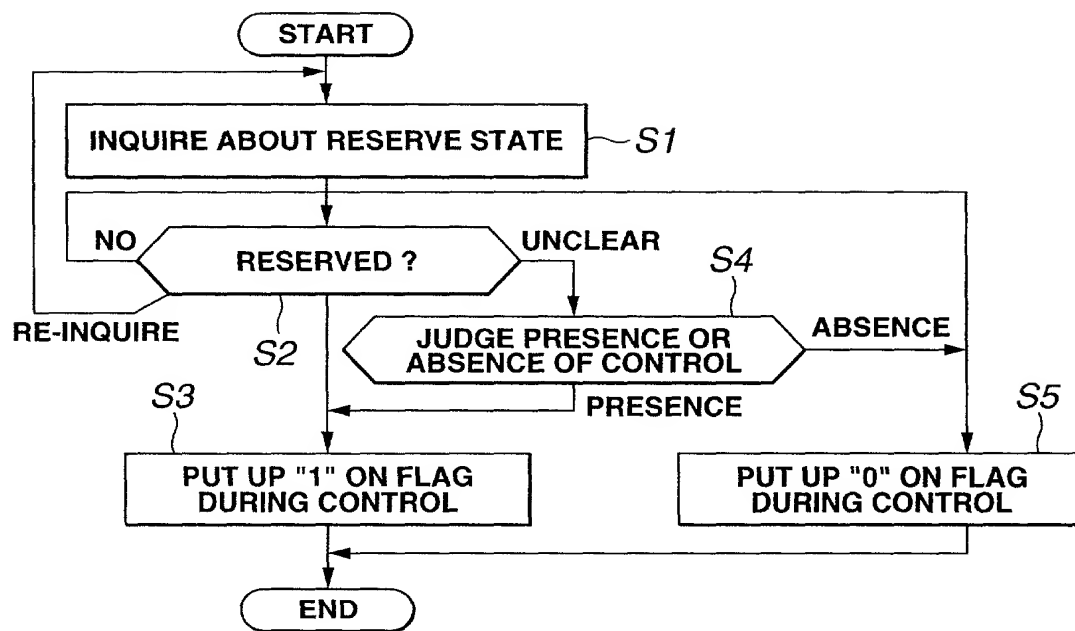


FIG.2

3/25

**FIG.3**

4/25

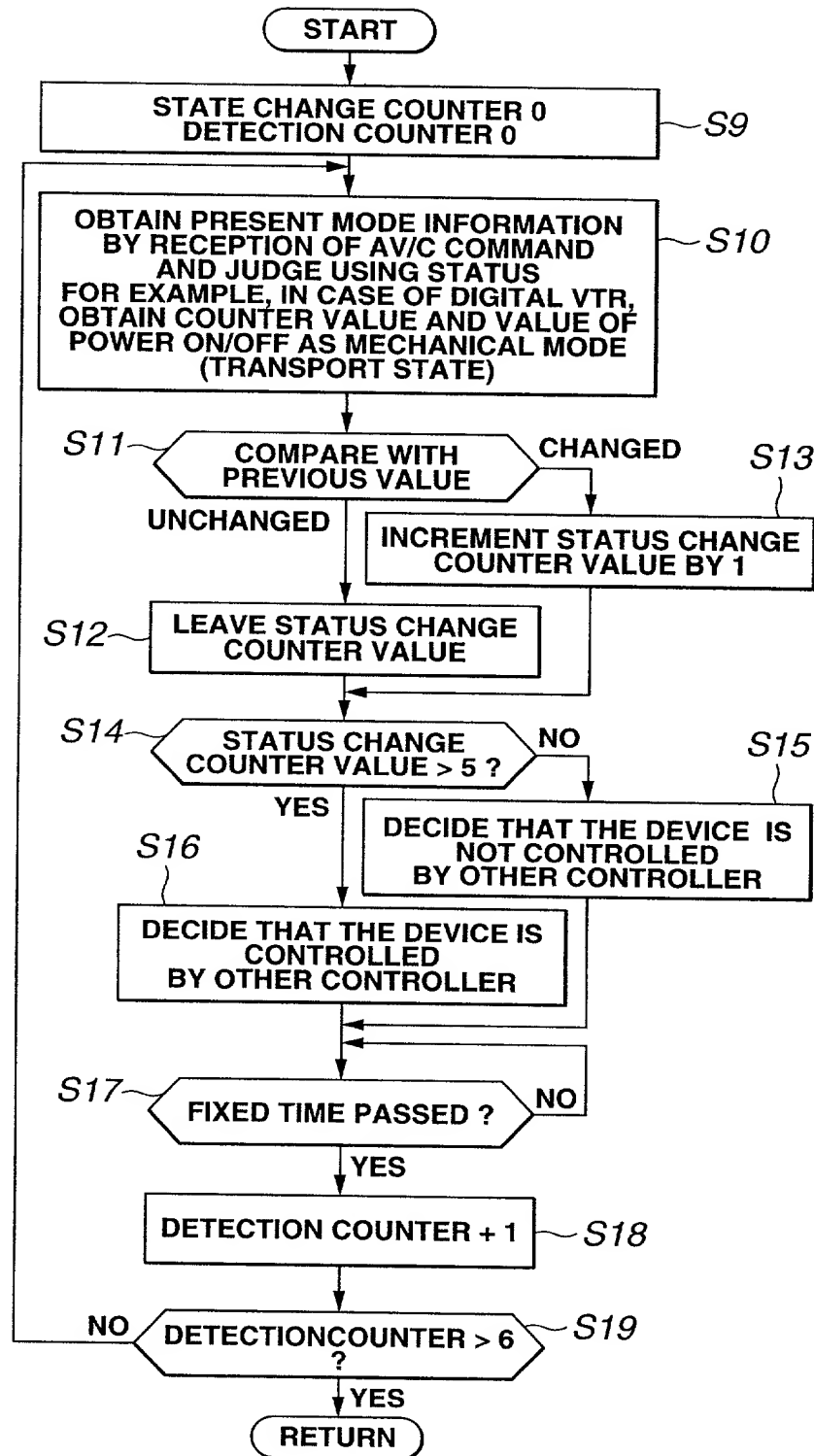


FIG.4

5/25

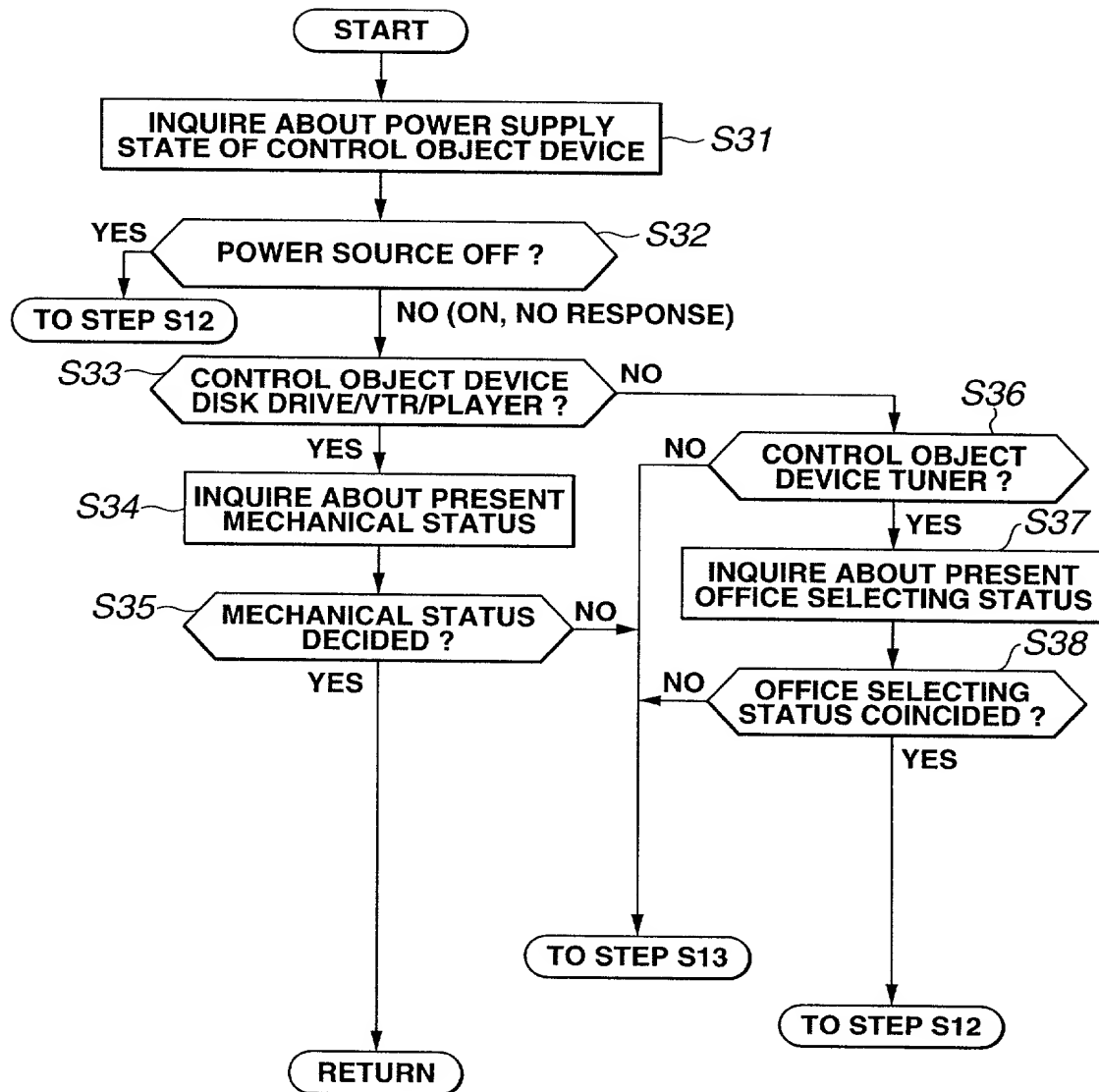


FIG.5

6/25

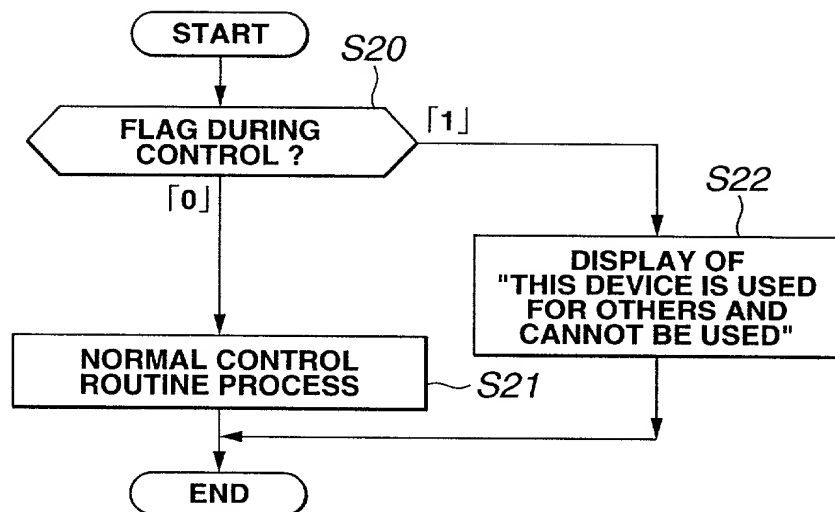


FIG.6

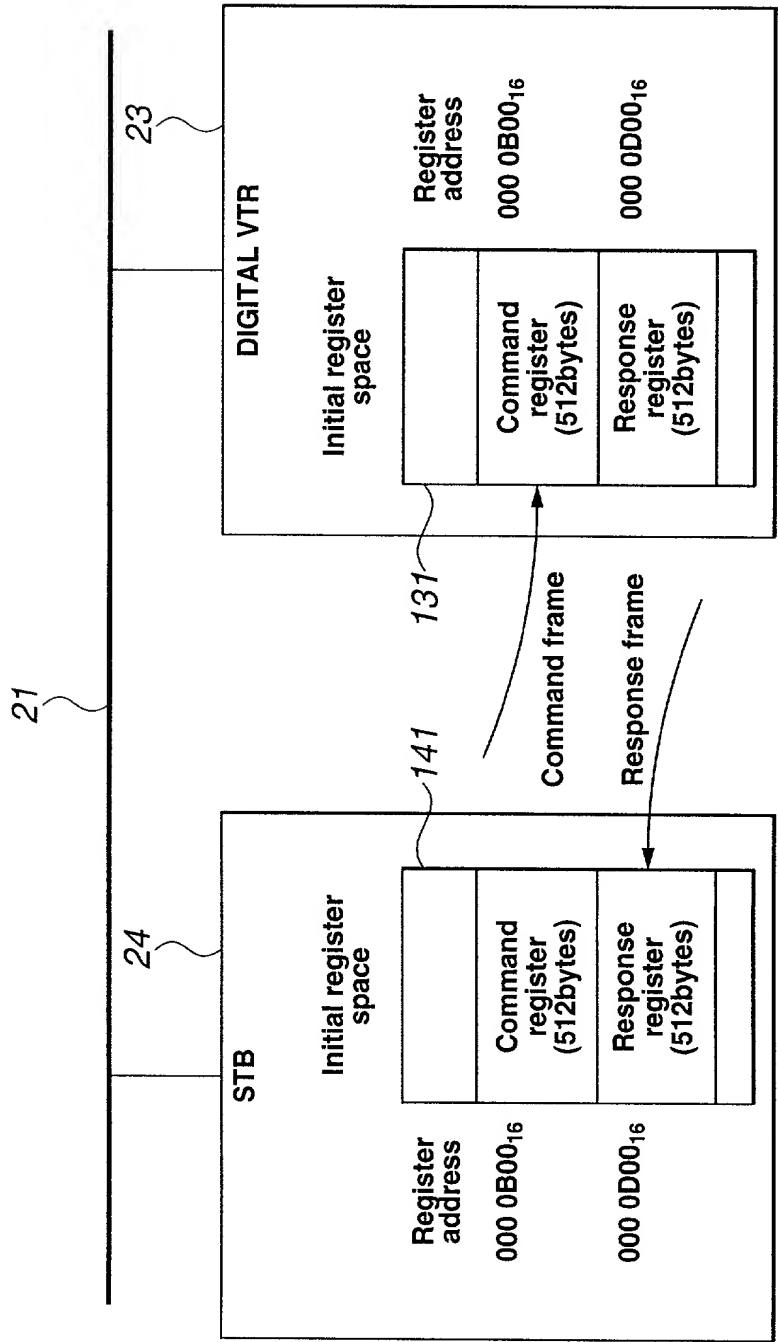


FIG.8

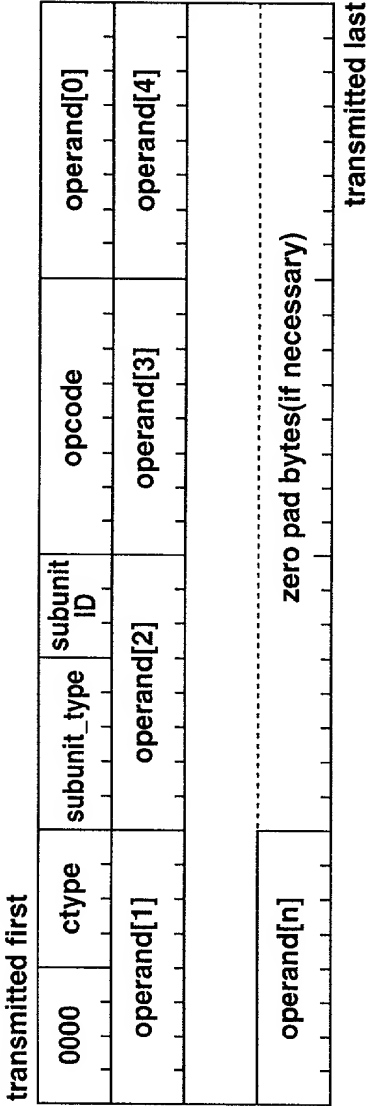


FIG.9

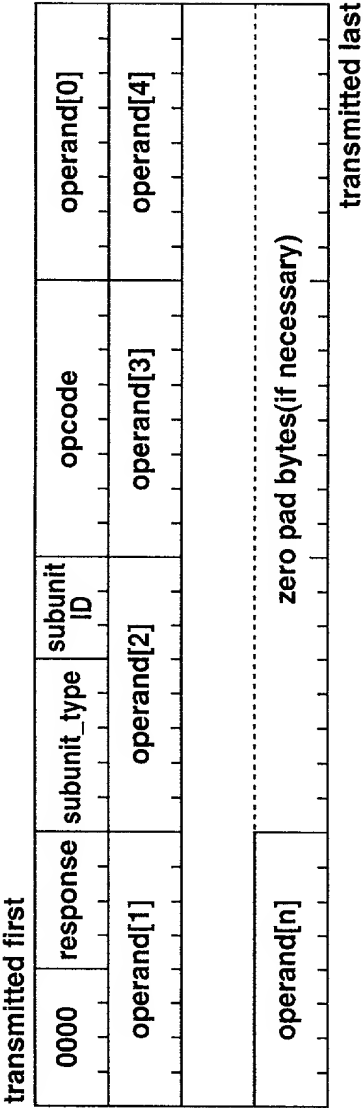


FIG.10

11/25

Value	Command type
0	CONTROL
1	STATUS
2	SPECIFIC INQUIRY
3	NOTIFY
4	GENERAL INQUIRY
5-7	Reserved for future specification
8-F ₁₆	Reserved for response codes

FIG.11

12/25

Subunit type	Meaning
0	Video monitor
1-2	Reserved for future specification
3	disc recorder/player(audio or video)
4	tape recorder/player(audio or video)
5	Tuner
6	Reserved for future specification
7	Video camera
8-1B ₁₆	Reserved for future specification
1C ₁₆	Vendor unique
1D ₁₆	Reserved for all subunit types
1E ₁₆	subunit_type extended to next byte
1F ₁₆	Unit

FIG.12

Subunit type	Meaning
0-4	Instance number
5	subunit_ID extended to next byte
6	Reserved for all instances
7	Ignore

FIG.13

opcode	msb	lsb
operand[0]	RESERVE(01 ₁₆)	
operand[1]	priority	
:	text	
:		
operand[12]		

FIG.14

05, 857448

Command priority	Stored priority
0-1	priority
02 ₁₆ -0E ₁₆	priority&0E ₁₆
0F ₁₆	priority

FIG.15

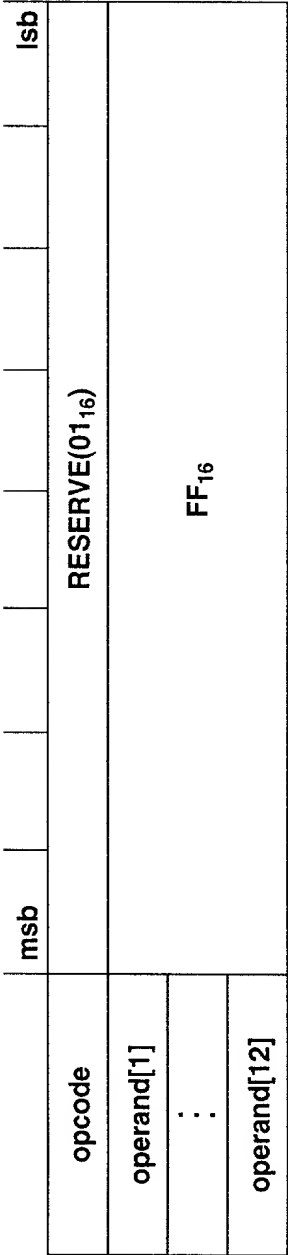


FIG.16

Value	Response
0-7	Reserved for command types
8	NOT IMPLEMENTED
9	ACCEPTED
A ₁₆	REJECTED
B ₁₆	IN TRANSITION
C ₁₆	IMPLEMENTED/STABLE
D ₁₆	CHANGED
E ₁₆	Reserved for future specification
F ₁₆	INTERIN

FIG.17

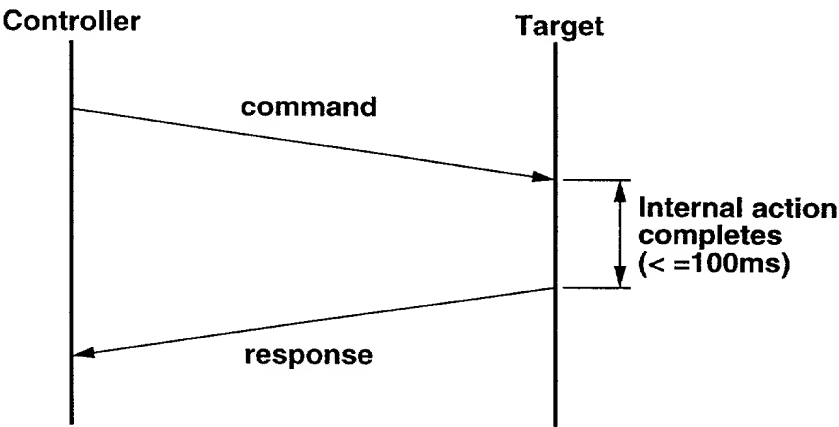
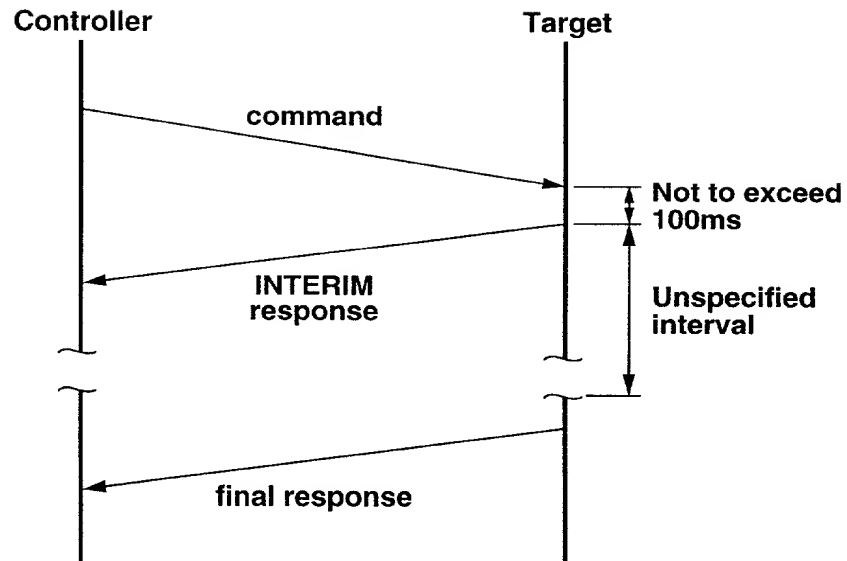


FIG.18

17/25

**FIG.19**

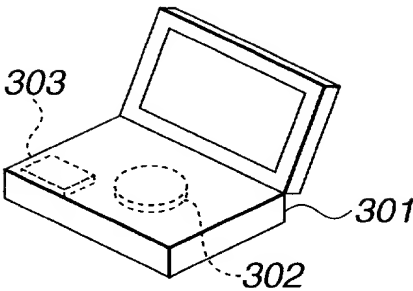
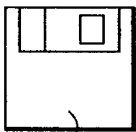
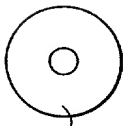


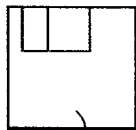
FIG. 20A



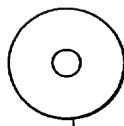
311



312

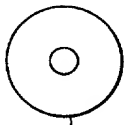


313

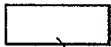


314

FIG. 20B FIG. 20C FIG. 20D FIG. 20E



315



316

FIG. 20F FIG. 20G

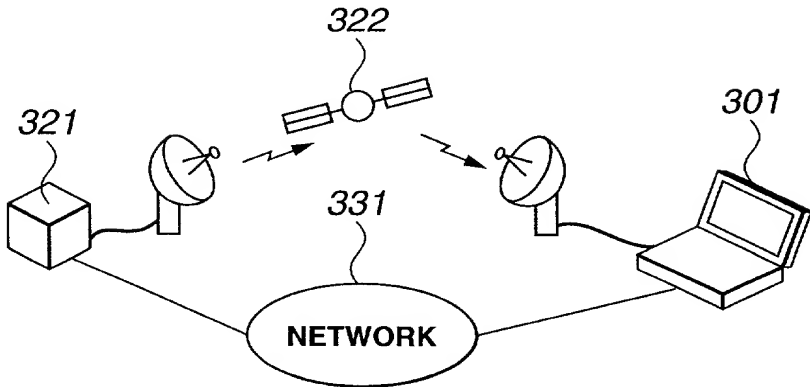


FIG. 20H

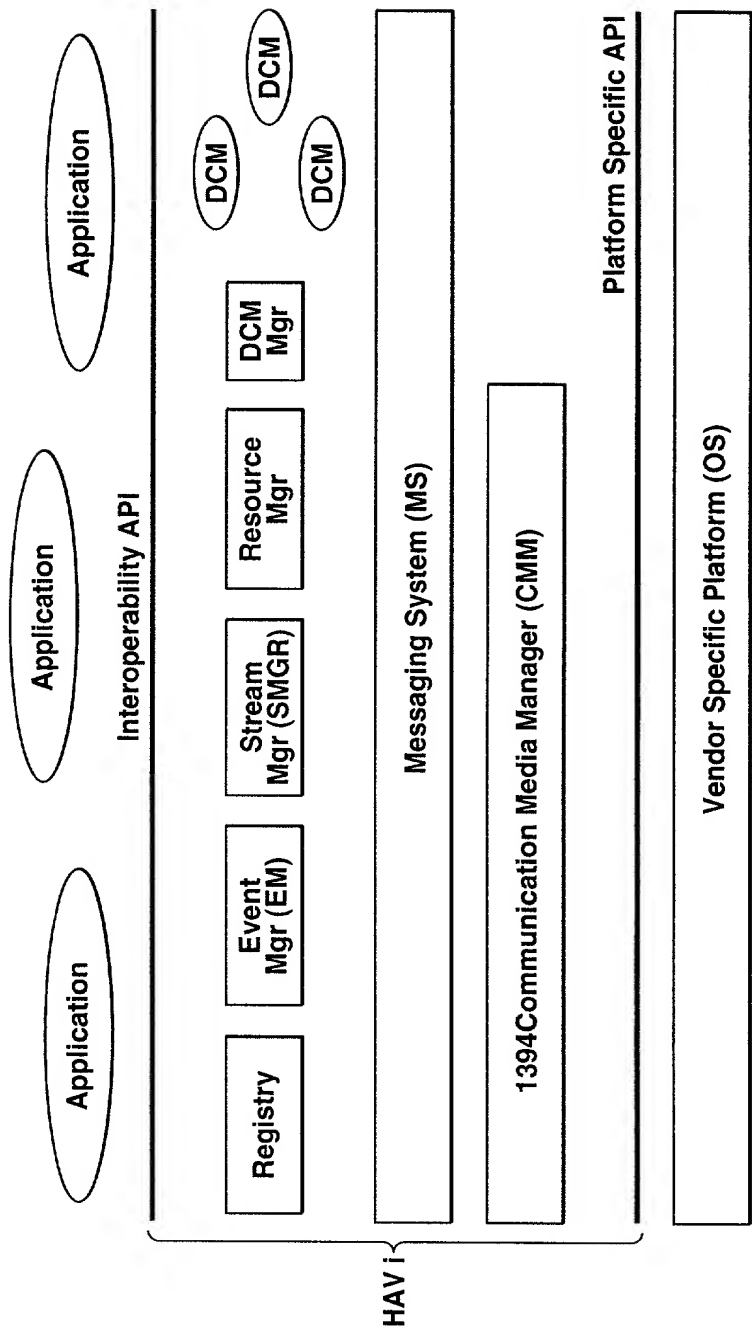
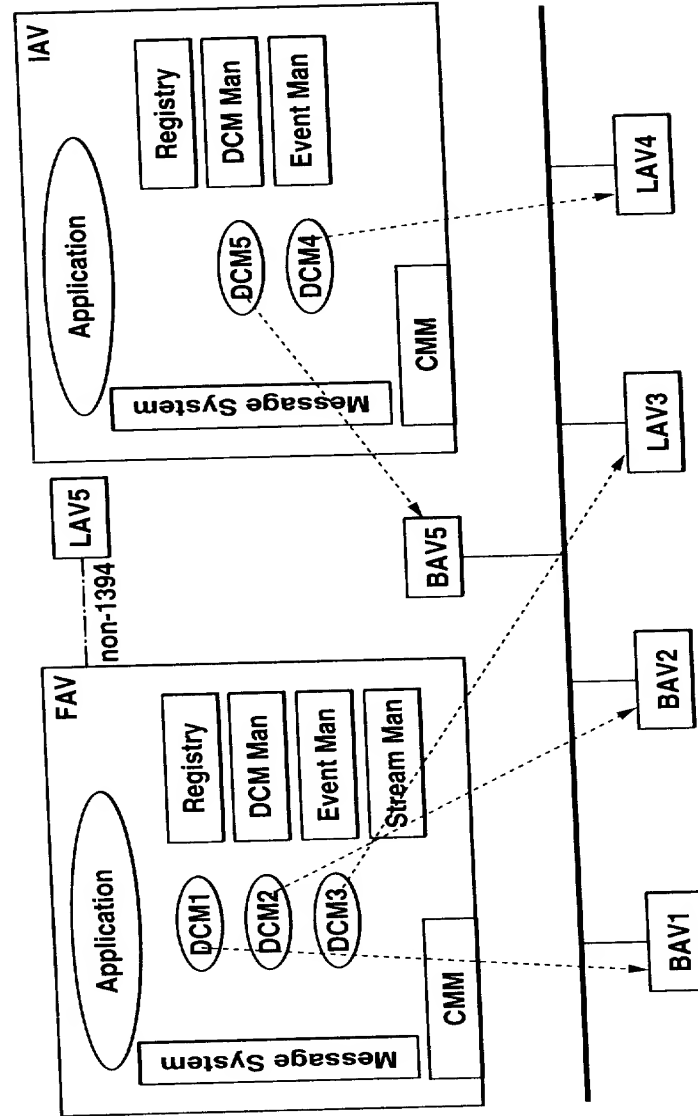


FIG.21

20/25

Device Type/Element	FAV	IAV	BAV	LAV
Java Runtime	✓			
DDI Controller	[✓]	[✓]		
Resource Manager	✓	[✓]		
Stream Manager	✓	[✓]		
DCM Manager	✓	[✓]		
Registry	✓	✓		
Event Manager	✓	✓		
Messaging System	✓	✓		
1394Communication Media Manager	✓	✓		
HAV i SDD data	✓	✓	✓	
DCM	✓	[✓]	✓	✓

FIG.22

**FIG.23**

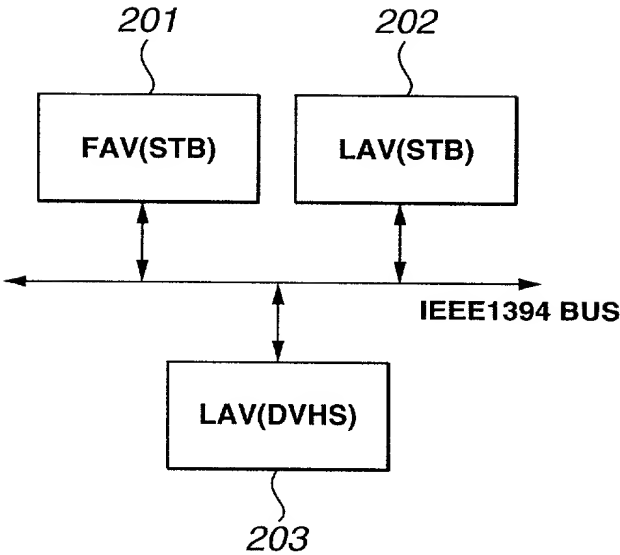
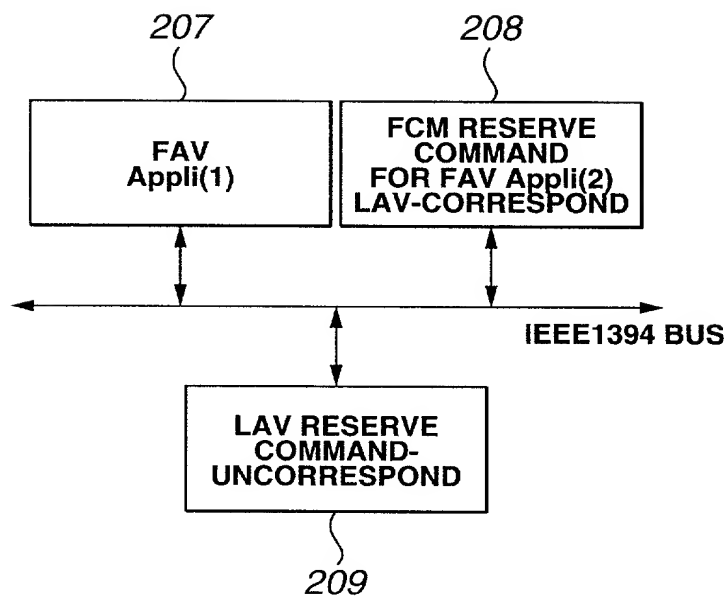


FIG.24

23/25

**FIG.25**

24/25

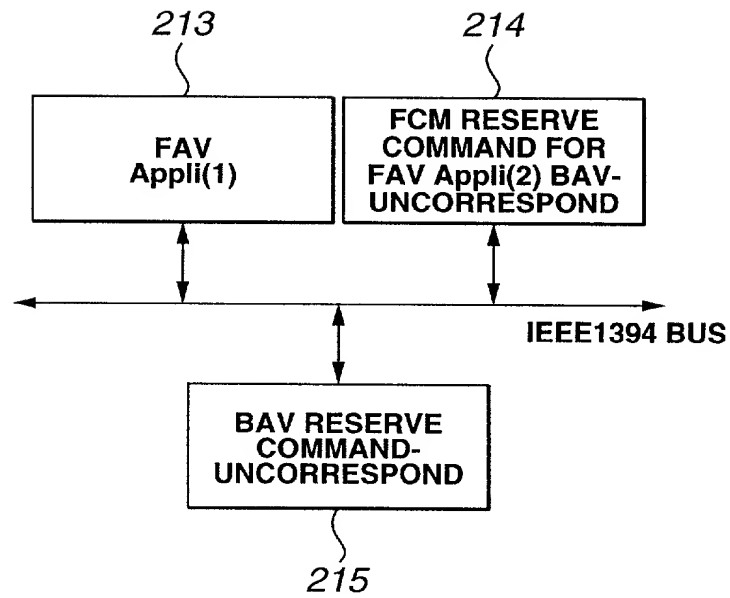
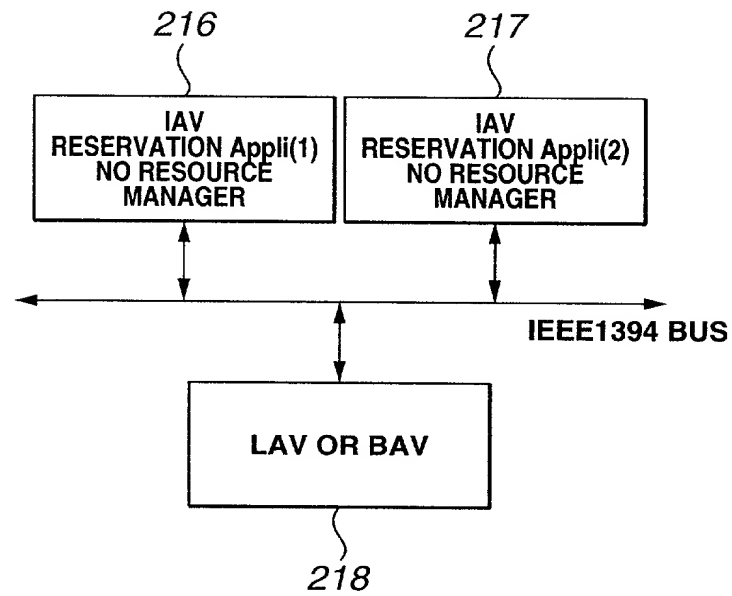


FIG.26

25/25

**FIG.27**

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、以下に記名された発明者として、ここに下記の通り宣言する：

As a below names inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、郵便の宛先そして国籍は、私の氏名の後に記載された通りである。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name:

下記の名称の発明について、特許請求範囲に記載され、且つ特許が求められている発明主題に関して、私は、最初、最先且つ唯一の発明者である（唯一の氏名が記載されている場合）か、或いは最初、最先且つ共同発明者である（複数の氏名が記載されている場合）と信じている。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor(if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD, MEDIUM

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

上記発明の明細書はここに添付されているが、下記の額がチェックされている場合は、この限りでない：

☒ was filed on October 10, 2000
as United States Application Number of
PCT International Application Number PCT/JP00/07034
and was amended under PCT Article 19
on February 23, 2001 (if applicable).

☐ _____ の日に出願され、
この出願の米国出願番号またはPCT国際出願番号は、
_____ であり、且つ
_____ の日に補正された出願（該当する場合）

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、上記の補正書によって補正された、特許請求範囲を含む上記明細書を検討し、且つ内容を理解していることをここに表明する。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義されている、特許性について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認める。

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the need of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、ここに、以下に記載した外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いは米国以外の少なくとも一国を指定している米国法典第35編第365条(a)によるPCT国際出願について、同第119条(a)-(d)項又は第365条(b)項に基づいて優先権を主張するとともに、優先権を主張する本出願の出願日より前の出願日を有する外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いはPCT国際出願については、いかなる出願も、下記の枠内をチェックすることにより示した。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

P11-286997
(Number)
(番号)

Japan
(Country)
(国名)

PCT/JP00/07034
(Number)
(番号)

PCT
(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国仮特許出願についても、その米国法典第35編第119条(e)項の利益を主張する。

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国出願についても、その米国法典第35編第120条に基づく利益を主張し、又米国を指定するいかなるPCT国際出願についても、その同第365条(c)に基づく利益を主張する。また、本出願の各特許請求の範囲の主題が、米国法典第35編第112条第1段に規定された態様で、先行する米国出願又はPCT国際出願に開示されていない場合においては、その先行出願の出願日と本国内出願日またはPCT国際出願日との間の期間中に入手された情報で、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義された特許性に関わる重要な情報について開示義務があることを承認する。

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、ここに表明された私自身の知識に係わる陳述が真実であり、且つ情報と信ずることに基づく陳述が、真実であると信じられることを宣言し、さらに、故意に虚偽の陳述などを行った場合は、米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、若しくはその両方により処罰され、またそのような故意による虚偽の陳述は、本出願またはそれに対して発行されるいかなる特許も、その有効性に問題が生ずることを理解した上で陳述が行われたことを、ここに宣言する。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

07 October 1999
(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

10 October 2000
(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

委任状: 私は本出願を審査する手続を行い、且つ米国特許商標庁との全ての業務を遂行するために、記名された発明者として、下記の弁護士及び/または弁理士を任命する。(氏名及び登録番号を記載すること)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact al business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Registration No. 25,506 and
DENNIS M. SMID, Registration No. 34,930

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:
WILLIAM S. FROMMER, Esq.
c/o FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

直通電話連絡先: (氏名及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to:
(212) 588-0800
to the attention of:
WILLIAM S. FROMMER

唯一または第一発明者氏名

Full name of sole or first inventor

発明者の署名

日付

Masao MIZUTANI
inventor's signature

Date

May 23, 2001

住所

Residence

Kanagawa, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address

c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome,
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 Japan

郵便の宛先

第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

full name of second joint inventor, if any

第二共同発明者の署名

日付

Yukihiko AOKI

Second Inventor's signature

Date

Yukihiko Aoki

May 24, 2001

住所

Residence

Tokyo, Japan

Citizenship

Japan

Post Office Address

c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome,
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 Japan

郵便の宛先

(第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors)